MR. M. GOVINDA PILLAI: I mean a department run on the basis of profit and loss.

MR. E. P. VARGHESE: Is not the Anchal department being run on that basis?

MR. M. GOVINDA PILLAI: Not absolutely; it may be called a quasi commercial department.

MR. E. P. VARGHESE: What will be the harm done to profit and loss if the principle of communal representation is adopted?

MR. M. GOVINDA PILLAI: Government cannot consider for a moment the question of issuing instructions to the Transport Superintendent to recruit men to his department according to the principle of communal representation, and to fetter the ample powers which they have given him with a view to choose efficient, reliable and competent men irrespective of communal considerations. So far as purely commercial departments are concerned, efficiency cannot be sacrified to communal or other considerations even to the slightest extent.

MR. E. P. VARGHESE: May I ask whether at present efficiency is being sacrificed to any extent in the departments to which recruitment is made on the communal basis?

MR. M. GOVINDA PILLAI: Government have not issued any prohibitory order excluding any community from the State Transport Service.

MR. E. P. VARGHESE: What is the total number of employees in the department?

MR. M. GOVINDA PILLAI: About a couple of hundreds.

MR. E. P. VARGHESE: May I know whether at any time efficiency has been sacrificed for the sake of communal representation?

MR. M. GOVINDA PILLAI: I did not say so.

MR. M. SIVATHANU PILLAI: May I ask whether efficiency, reliability and competence are the only considerations for recruitment in the Transport department?

MR. M. GOVINDA PILLAI: Yes, Sir.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum Town*): Do the Government consider that the Electrical department is a commercial department?

MR. M. GOVINDA PILLAI: Not in the sense that the Transport department is a commercial department.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI: May I know the distinction between the two departments in their commercial nature?

MR. M. GOVINDA PILLAI: I believe the Electrical department is not treated as a commercial department pure and simple.

Clerks in the State Transport Superintendent's Office.

47. * MR. M. K. MACKAR PILLAI: Will the Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement, by caste, of the clerks and peons appointed in the State Transport Superintendent's Office?

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MR. M. GOVINDA PILLAI: The Transport Department is conducted on a commercial basis without advertence to the rules in respect of recruitments to the Public Service and the question of appointments according to communities does not therefore arise.

Appointments in the State Transport Department.

48. * MR. JOSEPH VITHAYATHIL (*Kunnatnad* cum *Parur*): Will the Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement, according to caste, of the appointments till now made in the State Transport Service Department?

MR. M. GOVINDA PILLAI: The Transport Department is conducted on a commercial basis without advertence to the Rules in respect of recruitment to the Public Service, and the question of appointments according to communities does not therefore arise.

MR. JOSEPH VITHAYATHIL: Are the Government aware that the Transport Superintendent on the pretext of efficiency has shown partiality in recruiting officers for his department?

MR. M. GOVINDA PILLAI: The Government have placed absolute reliance on the Transport Superintendent Mr. Salter with respect to recruitment in his department. He is a European Gentleman and Government trust that communal proclivities and prejudices would not influence him in recruiting officers for his department.

MR. JOSEPH VITHAYATHIL: Have Government ascertained as a matter of fact that partiality has been shown by the Superintendent of Transport in the matter of selecting unrepresented communities?

MR. M. GOVINDA PILLAI: If proofs are produced before Government that partiality has been playing a prominent part in the matter of recruitment, Government would certainly be only too ready to conduct the necessary investigation and punish the persons responsible for having shown such partiality.

MR. JOSEPH VITHAYATHIL: Have Government ascertained partiality has been shown by the Superintendent of Transport by calling for a list of appointments made by him in the department?

MR. M. GOVINDA PILLAI: We have got a list of persons appointed by him and the Government have already perused that list. No interference with the discretion vested in Mr. Salter is called for.

MR JOSEPH VITHAYATHIL: Have Government any objection in placing the list of appointments made by him for the information of the House?

MR. M. GOVINDA PILLAI: The Government are not at all relevant to place the matter before the House. I have only to inform the House that the time and labour involved in preparing that statement is quite out of proportion to the public need.

MR. T. C. KESAVA PILLAI: (*Kalkulam* cum *Vilavankod*): ടാൻ സ്പോർട്ട് സൂപ്രണ്ട് പക്ഷപാതമായി നിയമനം നടത്തുന്നു എന്ന് വല്ല പരാതിയും ഉണ്ടായിട്ടുണ്ടോ?

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